

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: S. TANABE, et al

Serial No.: Not assigned

Filed: January 9, 2002

For: PACKET SWITCHING SYSTEM HAVING SELF-ROUTING SWITCHES

Group: Not assigned

Examiner: Not assigned

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 9, 2002

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted prior to the Rule 53(b) Continuation Application filed on even date.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert before the first line of the specification the following:

-- This is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/340,139, filed June 28, 1999; which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/838,950, filed April 23, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,999,537; which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/438,959, filed May 11, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 6,005,867; which is a continuation of application Serial No. 07/645,491, filed January 24, 1991, now U.S. Patent No. 5,740,156; which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 07/096,011, filed September 14, 1987, now U.S. Patent No. 5,043,979. --

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-14 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please add new claims 15 and 16 as follows:

-- 15. A communication system including a plurality of communication apparatuses, said communication system transfers a packets from a first communication apparatus to a second communication apparatus, each communication apparatus comprising:

a plurality of interfaces;

a memory which stores new connection identifiers;

a converter which converts connection identifiers of received packets to said new connection identifiers stored in said memory;

a switch which transfers a received packet to one of said interfaces based on a new connection identifier,

wherein a control signal is communicated via a first connection between said first communication apparatus and said second communication apparatus for determining a second connection through which said packet is to be transferred, and determining a new connection identifier corresponding to said second connection, said new connection identifier is stored in the memories of a plurality of communication apparatuses in which said second connection is to be setup, and

wherein when said packet is received by said interface of said first communication apparatus, said connection identifier of said received packet is converted to said determined connection identifier stored in said memory and said received packet is

output to said interface of said second communication apparatus via said plurality of communication apparatuses in which said second connection is setup.

16. A communication system including a plurality of communication apparatuses, said communication system transfers a packet from an originating communication apparatus to a destination communication apparatus, each communication apparatus comprising:

a plurality of interfaces;

a memory which stores new connection identifiers;

a controller which converts connection identifiers of received packets to said new connection identifiers stored in said memory;

a switch which transfers a received packet to one of said interfaces based on a new connection identifier,

wherein a control signal is communicated between said originating communication apparatus and said destination communication apparatus for determining a connection through which said packet is to be transferred, and determining a new connection identifier corresponding to said connection, and

wherein when said packet is received by said interface of said originating communication apparatus, a connection identifier of said received packet is converted to said new connection identifier stored in said memory and said received packet is output to said destination communication apparatus. —

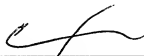
REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments prior to examination is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.25179CP5).

Respectfully submitted,

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